



Famous state fair foods at American restaurants

Jenn Rice, Special for USA TODAY 7 a.m. EDT June 6, 2016



(Photo: I Heart Mac & Cheese)

Two key fair foods were born at the [State Fair of Texas](#) back in the early 1900s: the snow cone and the corn dog. Fast-forward to 2016 and these popular bites are making appearances on menus across the country — along with whacky new creations.

"The Fair industry has been very innovative in past years," says Charles Boghosian, owner of Chicken Charlie's FRYBQ in San Diego and original creator of deep fried Oreos. "A lot of the creations have raised the bar like never before." Boghosian now makes everything from deep-fried Kool-Aid to a [Krispy Kreme Chicken Sandwich](#) for hungry fairgoers.

"People always raved about our food and [would] ask us how they can get it year round," he says. "After many years of listening to that, I took the plunge and opened [Chicken Charlie's FRYBQ]." Customers can now get their fair food fix anytime.

Chef Lou Aaron of Westside Drive-in in Boise, Idaho, trademarked his now-famous Idaho Ice Cream Potato in 1990. In a 10-day fair run, he sells over 6,000 potatoes, making it one of the state's most synonymous fair foods.

Fairs have made foods famous across the country for generations, and these ones have made their way onto dessert menus. From nostalgic fair food staples to off the wall creations, browse the gallery above to see some of the best offerings in America. The best part? You can get them even after summer is over.



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Famous state fair foods across the country

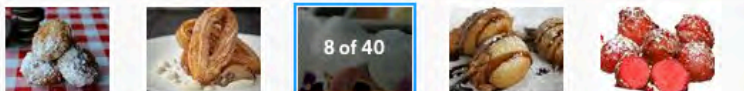
At Harrah's Resort Southern California, guests can satisfy their sweet tooth at The Buffet with old-fashioned caramel apples. The talented pastry chef team uses fresh ingredients to make these nostalgic carnival treats daily. Harrah's Resort Southern California



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Famous state fair foods across the country

Referred to as "Powder," these beignet bites at M Bistro at The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans are served with chocolate, caramel and vanilla dipping sauces, and remain crowd-pleasing sweet treats for good reason. The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans





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Famous state fair foods across the country

Locals flock to Don Chido in San Diego for executive chef Andre Alto's Cinnamon Churros y Abuelitos Chocolate. Unlike regular churros, his version is tempura-battered and fried, dipped in cinnamon, and served with a warm chocolate dipping sauce or seasonal dulce de leche sauce. Don Chido



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Famous state fair foods across the country

In true state fair fashion, FIRE restaurant at the ART hotel in Denver, offers a playful Basket of Beignets. Airy and sweet, guests will appreciate these fried dough bites dusted with confectioner's sugar. the ART, a hotel



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Famous state fair foods across the country

Nothing screams fair food like an old-fashioned funnel cake. At The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage, State Fare Bar + Kitchen offers a Funnel Cake finished off with housemade kumquat jam, whipped cream and berries, and includes a homemade Nutella spread on the side for dipping. [The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage](#)



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Famous state fair foods across the country

It's hard to recreate the nostalgic taste of a hot dog from the fair, but Pink's Hot Dogs in Las Vegas does a great job. Opt for the Chicago Polish Dog with mustard, relish, tomatoes and lettuce, or the classic Chili Cheese Dog with American cheese, chili, mustard and onions. [Pink's Hot Dogs](#)





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Famous state fair foods across the country

Cinnamon and sugar donuts are something to look forward to during the fair season. In case you miss the boat, AVANT at Rancho Bernardo Inn offers Coffee & Donuts, a signature after dinner treat of donuts paired with Bailey's ice cream that's topped off with espresso foam.

Rancho Bernardo Inn



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Famous state fair foods across the country

Enjoy Park City Mountain views and Fried Cheddar Cheese Curds at Miners Camp. Made with local Utah Beehive Cheddar, the crispy, gooey bites will bring back memories of the fair.

Vail Resorts





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Famous state fair foods across the country

FIREHOUSE American Eatery + Lounge in San Diego will have you forever thinking about corn dogs – once you try their minis, that is. They're made with fresh ingredients and drizzled in honey mustard, making them a perfect midday snack. FIREHOUSE American Eatery + Lounge



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Famous state fair foods across the country

There's nothing more refreshing than a root beer float on a hot summer fair day. If you're looking for a quick fix, Puccini & Pinetti at Hotel Abri in San Francisco serves an Italian version containing IBC Root Beer and vanilla gelato. Puccini & Pinetti

